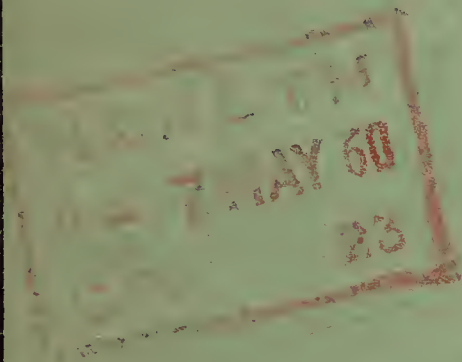


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Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council



**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1958**

**R. C. F. SMITH,
M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
E. ROBINSON,
M.R.S.Inst., M.S.I.A.**

Dr. Smith

Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council

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Council Offices,
Broadway,
Houghton-le-Spring,
Co. Durham.

Telephone : Houghton-le-Spring 3222.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my first Annual Report in this District.

Dr. L. A. M. Johnston retired on the 31st July, 1958 and this is my five months' contribution, together with the other seven months under the aegis of Dr. Johnston.

Birth Rate

This, at 18.48, is lower than in the preceding year and also is higher than for England and Wales, which was 15.7.

Death Rate

At 11.08 per 1,000 population this is slightly lower than in 1957 but compares favourably with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death

Heart Disease and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System (the latter mainly cerebral haemorrhage) accounted for slightly over half the total number of diseases in 1958 and coronary thrombosis, which is included, for almost one-sixth. These diseases are still taking a great toll throughout the country each year.

Cancer—there were 66 deaths from this cause in 1958. This is still one of the problem diseases of the world. The Ministry of Health circular, published in mid 1957, regarding the possible connection between lung cancer and cigarette smoking was discussed at an area meeting of County Medical Officers of Health and it was felt that the only really useful propaganda would be amongst school children—this has been my personal opinion for some time and I still feel that this is the only propaganda which will prove effective in the future.

Infectious Diseases

During 1958, 56 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 1041 compared with the number of cases for 1957.

Measles and Whooping Cough. These two diseases show a decrease in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in 1958, there being 1 case of measles and 2 of whooping cough as against 883 of measles and 132 of whooping cough in 1957.

Tuberculosis. 21 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 non-pulmonary were notified during the year 7 of the pulmonary cases were under 20 years of age.

Scarlet Fever. There were 17 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year.

Diphtheria. There were no cases of diphtheria in 1958. The importance of immunisation against this disease must be continually emphasised. Family doctors are able to combine this with preventive treatment against whooping cough.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). This is a disease which greatly worries parents. No cases were notified in 1958.

The vaccination programme to protect children against poliomyelitis was continued throughout the year as greater supplies of vaccine became available. The number of children given their first injection was 4,462, of these 3,967 received their 2nd injection and 120 received their 3rd injection. There are 4,720 children registered in the area.

Housing

The Council continues to make good progress with the implementation of the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme; 187 houses being erected during the year, 84 of these on Hindson Crescent North, 93 on the Burnside Estate and 10 at Burn Park Road, Houghton, and, at the 31st December, 1958, a further 131 were in course of erection.

The number of pre-war houses modernised during 1958 was 600 and the number modernised prior to 1958 was 600.

Welfare of the Aged

The local Committee continues to function and, apart from the kindly interest in the 9 Over-60 Clubs which are functioning in the district, and which are self-supporting, the main service of the Committee has been to provide a chiropody service for old people. Nearly 700 treatments were given during the year.

The Committee are extremely grateful to the Council for their donation which enables them, along with considerable effort on the Committee's part, to provide this service at a cost which any old person can afford.

As a result of the Advisory Conference held in 1957 a small Visiting Committee has been formed.

Medical Inspections

For the sickness benefit scheme a room was furnished for this purpose together with the necessary equipment.

As in previous years various lectures were given on chest diseases, First Aid and surveys of old age.

In addition, for the No. 5 area a survey of 500 Old Age Pensioners was made regarding their Housing conditions. This was published under the title "Comfort and Safety for the Aged Living Alone".

Also in the above area B.C.G. Vaccination was commenced. Latest figures reveal that over 95% consents were obtained and of these 10% had been already infected.

R. C. F. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1958

Members of the Health Committee, 1958

Chairman: Councillor L. R. Holmes, 8, Green Avenue, Newbottle.

Members:

Houghton Ward

Councillor J. A. Hall, 35, Windsor Crescent, Houghton-le-Spring.
Councillor G. Henderson, 21, Balmoral Crescent, Houghton-le-Spring.
Alderman H. Hodgson, 2, Stevenson Street, Houghton-le-Spring.
Councillor J. Bartley, 32, Burns Avenue North, Houghton-le-Spring.
Councillor E. Kelly, 14, Burns Avenue South, Houghton-le-Spring.
Councillor W. E. Towers, 28, Sancroft Drive, Houghton-le-Spring.
Councillor T. W. Urwin, 54, Queensway, Houghton-le-Spring.
Councillor T. A. Richardson, 1, Kingsway, Houghton-le-Spring.

Penshaw Ward

Councillor Mrs. V. Barker, 12, Harrow Crescent, Shiny Row.
Councillor T. R. Hunt, 18, Hindson Crescent South, Shiny Row.
Councillor J. Hamilton, 11, Church Street, Shiny Row.
Councillor J. Mawston, 10, Hindson Crescent North, Shiny Row.
Councillor W. J. McKinley, 10, Wensleydale Avenue, Penshaw.
Councillor D. Metcalfe, 2, Oxford Terrace, Shiny Row.
Councillor I. S. Oliver, 64, Wensleydale Avenue, Penshaw.

Fence Houses

Councillor Mrs. P. Alderson, 78, Avenue Vivian, Fence Houses.
Councillor D. Cockburn, 7, Station Avenue North, Fence Houses.
Councillor A. Garland, North House, Fence Houses.
Councillor C. W. Robson, 98, Avenue Vivian, Fence Houses.

Herrington Ward

Councillor J. Avery, 12, Railway Terrace, New Herrington.
Councillor J. McKinley, 6, Fenton Terrace, New Herrington.
Councillor T. Wynd, 120, Fletcher Crescent, New Herrington.

Newbottle Ward

Councillor B. A. Bircham, 10, Chapel Row, Philadelphia.
Councillor W. E. Marshall, 14, Hazel Terrace, Newbottle.
Councillor H. T. Watson, 21, The Crescent, Philadelphia.

Co-opted Members

Mrs. Hutchinson, 10, Chestnut Terrace, Newbottle.
Mr. J. Stockport, 1, Larkfield Crescent, Shiny Row.

Public Health Officers and Staff of the Authority

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: Dr. R. C. F. Smith, M.D., B.S., D.P.H. Conjoint appointment with Hetton Urban District Council, Washington Urban District Council, Sunderland Rural District Council and Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT: E. Robinson. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts. Associate Member of Institute of Public Cleansing.

DEPUTY SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: N. Pounder. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: W. Snowball. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER: A. Veitch. Whole time. Fellow of Surveyor's Institute and a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

CHIEF CLERK: A. Armstrong.

SHORTHAND TYPIST: Miss J. Brown.

CLERK: Mrs. Smith.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—5,026 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population—mid year 1958—31,380.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958 according to Rate Books—10,058.

Rateable Value—£232,371.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£830.

Health Services administered by the County Council

The County Council are the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act and are responsible for the following services:—

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Vaccination—Smallpox and Poliomyelitis	Child Welfare and Maternity Services
Immunisation against Diphtheria	School Medical Services
Welfare of the Aged	Care of the Blind and certain other handicapped persons

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTORS are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

The Ministry of Agriculture are responsible for the carrying out of the routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of the said cows, this work being carried out by their own Veterinary Inspectors.

Vital Statistics

Births and Birth Rate

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for the outward and inward transfers) during 1958 was 565 compared with 577 for 1957.

Sex and legitimacy are shown thus:—

		Total	Male	Female	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 18.00
Live Births {					
	Legitimate	552	267	285	}
	Illegitimate	13	8	5	

The Registrar General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 16.4 for 1958.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births was 2.30.

Year	Total live births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000 population	Excess births over deaths
1949	577	288	289	19.32	229
1950	612	335	227	20.11	266
1951	608	286	322	19.87	268
1952	579	300	279	12.21	249
1953	590	297	293	19.10	253
1954	544	276	268	17.57	180
1955	512	273	239	16.54	203
1956	537	274	263	17.31	231
1957	577	294	283	18.49	210
1958	565	275	290	18.00	217

Still Births—During 1958 there were 15 still births in the district.

		Total Male Female			}	giving a rate of 25.86 per 1,000 (live and still births) births
Still Births		Legitimate	15	8	7	
		Illegitimate	—	—	—	

(Total live and still births was 580 for 1958).

Deaths and Death Rate

The Registrar General reports that during 1958 348 persons normally residing in the Urban Area died, being 204 males and 144 females.

The death rate was, therefore, 11.08 per 1,000 population.

This compares with 11.76 for 1957.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list.)

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

The Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births was nil.

Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales

		Houghton-le-Spring	England & Wales
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from Puerperal Sepsis	...	0.00	0.35
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from other Puerperal Causes		0.00	0.08

Death Rate of Infants under One Year

17 children died during 1958 before attaining the age of one year, being 8 legitimate males and 8 legitimate females and 1 illegitimate male, equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 30.08 (per 1,000 live births).

During 1957 8 children died before attaining the age of one year.

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births was 28.31.

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births was 76.15.

Death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1949-1958.

Year		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1949	...	53.91	...	53.47	...	62.5
1950	...	39.21	...	38.14	...	111.11
1951	...	29.60	...	27.96	...	111.11
1952	...	41.45	...	41.45	...	00.00
1953	...	27.12	...	27.12	...	00.00
1954	...	33.08	...	31.26	...	125.00
1955	...	23.43	...	21.46	...	100.00
1956	...	27.93	...	27.93	...	00.00
1957	...	13.8	...	13.8	...	00.00
1958	...	30.08	...	28.31	...	76.15

Of the 17 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributed to Prematurity in 5 cases, Atelectasis in 1 case, Pneumonia in 2 cases and Other Causes 9 cases. Of these 10 children died under 4 weeks being 4 males and 6 females, equivalent to 58.82 per cent of the total deaths under one year.

Nett Live Births—Legitimate				Illegitimate			
		Males	Females	Males	Females		
Corrected as per Registrar General	...	267	285	8	5	=	565
Nett Deaths	...	8	8	1	—	=	17

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS AND AGE INCIDENCE IN THE VARIOUS WARDS

Ward.	Under 1 year		1-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Houghton	3	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	4	21	10	26	14	24	19	78	51
Penshaw	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	16	9	7	13	19	17	46	42
Newbottle	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	2	6	2	9	5	26	11
Fence Houses	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	7	5	10	7	11	13	31	27
Herrington	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8	4	6	3	7	5	23	13
...
<i>Total</i>	9	8	2	...	1	1	...	...	6	7	61	30	55	39	70	59	204	144

During 1958 there was one death from “Infantile” diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

Couses of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1958

Causes of Death.				Male		Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	...	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	...	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	...	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	...	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	...	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	...	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	11	...	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	9	...	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	...	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	...	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	24	...	10
15.	Leukaemia aleukaemia	...	...	—	...	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	...	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	33	...	25
18.	Coronary disease angina	...	...	45	...	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	...	8
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	20	...	23
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	...	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	3	...	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	6	...	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	11	...	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	...	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	...	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	1	...	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	...	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	4	...	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	...	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	...	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	12	...	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	...	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	8	...	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	...	—
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	—	...	—
All Causes				204	...	144

Certain Specified Causes of Death

(a) TUBERCULOSIS:

During 1958 there were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. There was one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, equivalent to a rate of 0.12 per 1,000 population.

(b) HEART DISEASE:

Heart disease was, as in former years the chief cause of death throughout the area, 181 persons—being 104 males and 77 females—were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 52.01 of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 5.76 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table:—

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		Total	M	F	All Causes	Heart Disease	
1949	348	106	56	50	11.70	3.56	30.40
1950	346	107	54	53	11.4	3.52	30.92
1951	340	97	48	49	11.11	3.17	28.53
1952	348	104	54	50	11.21	3.36	29.88
1953	337	103	44	59	10.90	3.33	30.56
1954	364	98	49	49	11.76	3.16	26.49
1955	309	90	56	34	9.98	2.96	29.12
1956	306	130	67	63	9.86	4.19	42.48
1957	367	183	109	74	11.76	5.87	49.86
1958	348	181	104	77	11.08	5.76	52.01

(c) CANCER:

66 deaths—being 44 males and 22 females—were due to cancer. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 2.13 per 1,000 population or 19% of the total deaths. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 2.12.

Comparative table of deaths due to cancer for the years 1949-1958.

		Number of Deaths				Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
		Male		Female	Total	
1949	...	27	...	23	50	1.68
1950	...	28	..	18	46	1.51
1951	...	44	...	15	59	1.89
1952	...	30	..	24	54	1.74
1953	...	31	...	28	59	1.91
1954	...	34	...	24	58	1.87
1955	...	26	...	22	48	1.55
1956	...	28	...	30	58	1.87
1957	...	27	...	28	55	1.76
1958	...	44	...	22	66	2.13

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1958 from cancer, as compiled from local records.

Site		Males—Ages	Females—Ages
Lungs	...	47, 53, 55, 59, 60, 64, 66, 68, 69.	65, 84.
Uterus	...		69, 73.
Stomach	...	45, 57, 65, 66, 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 80.	56, 62, 73.
Breast	...		45, 53, 67, 72, 79.
Pancreas	...	59, 65, 67, 72, 74, 83.	
Rectum	...	52, 64, 80.	
Liver	...	45, 63, 64.	38, 80.
Bladder	...	77.	74, 89.
Prostate	...	87, 73.	
Oesophagus	...		61.
Intestines	...	30, 43, 57, 65, 76, 44, 54, 66, 74.	54, 62, 76, 78, 80.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

During 1958 some 56 cases of infectious disease (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 1041 compared with the number of cases during 1957.

Scarlet Fever: 17 cases were notified as against 13 in 1957 and of these 1 was admitted to hospital.

The case incidence was 0.54 per 1,000 population.

Diphtheria: There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1958, as in 1957, and, therefore, no deaths from this cause. The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 per 1,000 population.

Influenza: 4 deaths were ascribed to Influenza during 1958 as against 7 in 1957 and 1 in 1956.

There were 15 deaths as being ascribed to pneumonia (some influenza pneumonia) as against 22 in 1957 while the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 8 as against 15 in 1957 and 8 in 1956.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas: In 1958 there was 1 case of measles and 2 cases of whooping cough as against 883 measles and 35 cases of whooping cough in 1957.

There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough during the year.

No cases of erysipelas were notified during 1958.

Infantile Paralysis: During 1958 no cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area, being a case incidence of 0.00 per 1,000 population.

School Notification of Disease: No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the four quarters of 1958, also the number of re-inforcing injections for which records were received.

		Under 5		5-14		Total		Reinforcement
1st Quarter	...	55	...	30	...	85	...	34
2nd Quarter	...	9	...	8	...	17	...	37
3rd Quarter	...	3	...	4	...	7	...	16
4th Quarter	...	4	...	11	...	15	...	15
		71	...	53	...	124	...	102

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated, for which records were received, during the four quarters of 1958.

VACCINATED.						REVACCINATED.				
1958	Under 1 Year	1—4	5—14	15 years & over	Total	Under 1 Year	1—4	5—14	15 years & over	Total
1st Qtr. ...	31	9	4	5	49	—	—	1	15	16
2nd Qtr. ...	20	—	—	3	23	—	1	1	5	7
3rd Qtr. ...	30	4	1	5	40	—	—	—	1	1
4th Qtr. ...	40	2	2	6	50	—	1	—	8	9
	121	15	7	19	162	—	2	2	29	33

Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1958 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1949-58.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1949	14	21	35	2	3	5
1950	11	18	29	3	3	6
1951	18	29	47	3	5	8
1952	9	11	20	2	2	4
1953	6	10	16	—	—	—
1954	11	15	26	1	1	2
1955	10	10	20	1	—	1
1956	12	11	23	3	1	4
1957	11	12	23	1	2	3
1958	11	10	21	3	—	3

The following table shows the various age-period for males and females, at which new cases were notified and when death occurred.

			New Cases		Deaths	
Age Period			Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—	—
1 year	...	...	3	—	—	—
5 years	...	...	—	—	—	—
15 years	...	...	4	2	—	—
25 years	...	...	4	—	—	—
35 years	...	...	5	—	1	—
45 years	...	...	2	—	—	—
55 years	...	...	3	—	2	1
65 and upwards	...	...	—	1	—	—
			21	3	3	1

Mass Radiography

During the year 1958, a mass radiography survey was carried out in the urban area, in which a total of 2,339 persons, being 1,201 males and 1,138 females were X-rayed. Of this figure 131 were recalled for a large film X-ray and only 7 of this number failed to attend.

From statistics rendered it was noted that 36 persons, 33 males and 3 females, were suffering from non-tuberculosis conditions and 11 persons, being 3 males and 8 females, suspected pulmonary tuberculosis.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1958—Showing Age, Incidence and Distribution.
Admission to Hospital and Case Rates.

Notifiable Diseases	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. per 1000 Population.	Total Deaths		
	At Ages—Years											Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington				Total	
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65										65 and over
Scarlet Fever	1	3	3	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	11	3	2	...	17	3	0.54	...	19
Diphtheria
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia
Erysipelae
Pulmonary Tuberculosis } Male	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis } Female	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis } Male	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis } Female
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Small Pox
Dysentery	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis
Poliomyelitis
Polio-Encephalitis
Food Poisoning
Meningococcal Infections
Totals	2	8	2	3	4	12	1	7	5	5	6	1	26	16	6	5	3	56	10	...	...

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The water supply of the Urban area was taken over by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company at the beginning of April, 1957.

The water supplied to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations were made monthly of the treated water and the results for the year 1958, were:—

coliform organisms absent in 1, 10 and 100 ml. in all samples;
organisms visible after incubation at 37°C. for 48 hrs.=6.6 (average).

The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action; the supply is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place.

There are approximately 9,000 dwellings connected to the Company's mains, serving some 32,000 persons, and there are no standpipes in the area.

Housing

The number of houses in course of erection on the 31st December, 1958, was as follows:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	131
Private Houses	...	...	...	3

Closet Accommodation

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1958 was as follows:—

Water Closets	...	...	...	10,241
Ash Closets	...	...	...	20
Privy Middens	...	...	...	2

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Urban Area is divided into 8 districts, served by 1 foreman, 1 mechanic, 8 drivers and 24 fillers. Four Karrier Bantams and 4 larger CK 3 vehicles are used. One obsolete Karrier Bantam was converted into a salvage vehicle and one Karrier Bantam refuse collection vehicle is used as a floating vehicle to assist any district as necessary.

Three hundred and fifty-four working days were lost through sickness and other causes, due in some cases to the age of the men and to other physical conditions. Despite this loss of time through sickness, the staff has been able to maintain regular collections of house and trade refuse and salvage.

Regular collections of refuse from all premises have been maintained in the area, and credit is due to the cleansing staff for this achievement who have to work in all inclement weather and under all conditions. Refuse collections are made twice weekly for approximately 70% of premises throughout the district and the remaining 30% have a once weekly collection.

The foreman, along with other duties, is responsible for salvage collection from shop and factory premises. The Chamber of Trade co-operate with the Department in the collection of trade refuse and salvageable material from their members' premises, but, unfortunately, the human element is always present and shop employees often deposit floor sweepings, sometimes containing broken crockery or glass into the waste paper collection and this often results in cut fingers for paper baling operatives.

The present day problem of collecting house refuse seems to become more difficult every year.

Increased demand on the refuse collection service, coupled with rising costs of materials, maintenance and wages make it difficult to keep the cost of this essential service within reasonable limits.

The present estimated cost is 49/- per house, per annum. In 1950 the estimated cost was 27/6d. per house, and pre-war it was 15/- per house.

Present day house and shop refuse is more bulk than solid and contains much combustible paper and cardboard as manufacturers are making more use of paper and cardboard containers. The majority of these containers contain bitumin, polythene and other heated materials which are unsuitable for the paper mills.

It would greatly assist the Council to keep collection costs down and also help to "Keep Britain Tidy" if householders would burn more of this unsuitable salvage in their own homes.

Modern housing estate lay-outs and their "long carries" do not make the loader's job any lighter, often he has 80-100 yards to travel for the collection of one bin. This all increases the cost of refuse collection.

Refuse disposal tips are practically "non est" within the urban area but land reclamation is still being carried out in the tips at present in use and lost acreage will in time be returned to agriculture.

Ashbins

Sixty-seven bins have been purchased from the Council after notice of default during the year. These are a good quality galvanised BSS ashbin.

Salvage of Waste Materials

Waste paper and cardboard was disposed of under contract to Messrs. J. Ainsworth & Co. (Bolton) Ltd; 42 tons of baled paper and cardboard being sent to these mills and the sum realised £276 as against £574 in 1957, a decrease, due to falling prices, of £298. 46 tons of scrap tins were collected from the scavenging tips, realising £126, an increase of £53 over the prior year. Thirty hundredweight of mixed scrap was also disposed of, realising £11.

Housing Repairs

It is practically impossible to get local contractors to estimate for works specified under the Housing Acts, mainly because of the high cost of labour and materials and also because of the high charge that must be made even for small jobs of work.

Camping Sites

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping: a small caravan site mostly used by travelling showmen was licensed during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. The older types need to be replanned when circumstances permit.

Cinemas, Public Houses and Halls

There are five cinemas in the district: Houghton 3; Herrington Burn 1; Fence Houses 1.

These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and were generally found to be satisfactory.

The New Penshaw cinema was converted, during 1958, to a mineral water factory.

All licensed premises throughout the area are visited and are generally found to be in a clean and hygienic condition.

Eradication of the Bed Bug

The work is supervised by the Public Health Inspectors in co-operation with either tenants or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

			Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	...	...	1	...	1
Number of Other Houses	...	...	2	...	2

Prevention of Damage by Pests—Pests Act, 1949

Eighty-nine cases of rat, mouse and other infestations were reported and dealt with during the year.

No matter how minor the infestation may be, investigations are carried out by the Inspectors; this in some cases may appear to be a waste of time but the results are often more than satisfactory to the person concerned.

The part-time rodent operative has continued to relieve your Inspectors of some of the actual disinfestation of the premises.

Scavenging disposal tips in the area are regularly treated.

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S GENERAL SUMMARY FOR
YEAR 1958**

	No. of Inspec- tions	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Formal Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing:				
Public Health and Housing Acts ...	1,335	67	—	67
Overcrowding ...	48	6	—	6
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient ...	3	3	—	3
Defective ...	12	12	—	12
Drainage ...	56	47	—	47
Water Supply ...	9	9	—	9
Food Premises...	1,174	27	—	27
Shops Act ...	51	—	—	—
Dairies ...	46	11	—	11
Slaughter Houses:				
Public ...	—	—	—	—
Private ...	2,002	12	—	12
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	44	3	—	3
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ...	43	2	—	2
Keeping of Animals ...	24	12	—	12
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	29	28	—	28
Offensive Accumulations	12	12	—	12
Smoke Nuisances ...	25	7	—	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests, Act, 1949...	369	35	—	35
Licensed Premises ...	30	9	—	9
Schools ...	14	—	—	—
	5,326	302	—	302

Ash-pit privies converted into water-closets ...	...	—
Ash-closets converted into water-closets ...	...	—
Total number of water-closets in District ...	...	10,241
Total number of ash-closets in District ...	...	20
Total number of ash-pit privies in District ...	...	2

II. Water, Food and Drugs	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	17	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	—	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	4 tons 19 cwts.	4 ton 1039 lbs. Meat
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	—	1089 lbs. Other Foods
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	80	
Samples found Adulterated	1	
III. Precautions against infectious Disease		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	4	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	4	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	—	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	—	
IV. General		
Number of New Houses erected during year	203	Council 187
Number of such Houses occupied during year	203	Private 16

Housing Conditions

Housing Statistics for the Year 1958

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	781
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,106
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	276
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	309
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	136
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	43

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	72
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	136
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	35

D.—Proceedings under section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957,

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—
	By Owners	—

Housing Improvements Act, 1949

	Number of Separate Houses
(a) Application submitted to Local Authority	12
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	—
(c) Total No. of applications approved since the inception of scheme	159

Housing

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1958	No. of houses erected during 1958	No. of houses in course of erection at 31/12/58	TOTAL
Cement St., F.H	—	—	33	33
Newtown ...	82	—	—	82
North Rectory ...	60	—	—	60
Villa No. 1 and 2	246	10	—	256
Chilton Moor ...	168	—	—	168
Colliery Row ...	64	—	—	64
Hetton Road ...	314	—	—	314
Hall Lane ...	65	—	—	65
Race Course ...	620	—	—	620
Grange Estate ...	458	—	—	458
Sadgeleth ...	20	—	—	20
Hillside ...	72	—	—	72
Homelands ...	184	—	—	184
St. Aidans ...	138	—	—	138
Park Estate ...	268	—	—	268
Station Road ...	56	—	—	56
Chandler Row ...	9	—	—	9
Chester Road ...	276	—	—	276
Penshaw Hill ...	96	—	—	96
New Penshaw ...	40	—	—	40
Barnwell ...	612	—	10	622
Success ...	46	—	—	46
Cellar Hill ...	248	—	—	248
Hindson Crescent S.	110	—	—	110
Hindson Crescent N.	163	84	11	258
Burnside ...	47	93	77	217
	4,462	187	131	4,780

One hundred and eighty-seven houses were completed by direct labour, 16 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown on the above table.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supplies

During the year 25 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses

Slaughtering accommodation in the area is not up to the standard that is desired.

Slaughtering is carried out in eight private slaughterhouses in the Urban District and takes place practically six days a week and, in some cases, on seven days, but your Inspectors have maintained 100% inspection of animals slaughtered for food.

Meat inspection, a function of the Health Department that should not be neglected, is an important duty that your Inspectors often have to carry out outside normal office hours, often in the late evening, Sundays and even Bank Holidays.

Sunday and Bank Holiday inspection work is objectionable but must be carried out to avoid delay in the distribution of the meat to the public. To be really efficient, inspection should be carried out as near as possible to the time of slaughtering.

The quality of animals slaughtered in the district is now of a very high standard and a decline of tuberculosis is also a pleasing feature.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Cattle, 1,946; cows, 167; sheep and lambs, 4,646; pigs, 1,895; making a total of 8,654, all of which were inspected.

Food and Drugs

There were 214 food premises in the area, being :—

General Dealers	...	...	...	...	79
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	29
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	32
Butchers	...	...	...	...	26
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	14
Chemists	...	...	...	...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	11
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	9
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	4

There are three dairies, A. E. Smith, F. Tindale and B. English, and the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream is 81, being:—

General Dealers	...	...	...	...	57
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	3
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	5
Baker and Confectioner	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	1
Colliery Canteen	...	...	...	...	1

Routine inspection and supervision of all food preparing premises is regularly carried out and, whilst the general standard is good, there is still much room for improvement in many cases. Owners and occupiers are asked to co-operate with the Inspectors in their efforts to achieve a desired high standard.

The “shopper” can do much to enforce food hygiene if they will boycott the shopkeeper who does not bring his premises up to the desired standard.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1946	167	18	4646	1895
Number inspected	1946	167	18	4646	1895
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	2	—	1	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	170	28	—	73	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	8.84	16.76	—	1.65	1.10
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	1	6	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	73	30	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	3.80	21.55	—	—	—

WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in Lbs.)

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcasses	Organs	Parts	Carcasses	Organs	Parts
Cattle— excl. Cows	1,232	2,037	452	510	420	220
Cows ...	—	302	120	3,612	937	573
Calves ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ...	212	365	—	—	—	—
Pigs ...	—	96	—	—	—	—
	1,444	2,800	572	4,122	1,357	793

Total weight condemned 4 tons 19 cwts.

Unsound Food

Condemned meat and offal is disposed of for the manufacture of fats, fertilisers and animal feeding stuff, or if it is so diseased as to be unsuitable for such purpose it is destroyed.

Foods from retail premises are surrendered to the Health Department and are burned or destroyed and disposed of on the Council's tips.

293 tins meat, 336 tins vegetables, 48 tins fish, 419 tins fruit, 40 tins soup, 7 tins salmon, 29 tins evaporated milk, 5 tins baked beans, 148 tins tomatoes, 1 tin Nescafé, 1 tin cream rice, 2 tins chicken breast, 7 btls. tomato sauce, 16 tins chopped pork, 4 tins steak and gravy, 1 jar pickles, 60 lbs. prunes, 86 lbs. sliced meat, 27½ lbs. cooked ham, 28 lbs. beef sausage, 9½ lbs. tongue, 19¾ lbs. cooked pork, 12 lbs. pork sausage.

Bakehouses

A small number of local bakeries still exist in the area; their sales show that there are still many people who prefer the "homebaked" loaf. These premises are regularly inspected.

Ice Cream

During the year 20 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Much of the ice cream consumed is imported (pre-packed) into the district and sold by small retail shops. It is the practice to insist on an electric refrigerator for storage in these cases and to ensure that the premises and personnel are clean.

Fried Fish Shops

The sale of cooked food from fried fish and chip shops and salons has decreased considerably during the past year. The standard of cleanliness is well maintained and many establishments are equipped with modern cooking installations and many assistants serving in these establishments are provided with white overalls and caps.

Shops

The general standard of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the area is well maintained.

Canteens

Colliery, Factory and School canteens in which food is prepared were visited during the year, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Factories

The following are the principal places within your district :

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.E.B. Electrical Power Sub-Section.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Cō.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repairs Shops.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Building Works.
20. Packing Cases.
21. Travelling Cases.
22. Electrical Accessories.
23. Woodwork Machinery.
24. Pickles.
25. Light Engineering Works.
26. Furriers.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	94	87	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	4	...	...
Total	98	91	...	...

2. Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :				
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1	1	...	...

